

The Attitude of Capital .. to the Liquor Traffic ..

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There was a day when the great agitation against the "Liquor Traffic" was almost wholly within the Church. That day has passed, and now the industrial life and forces of our land are in the van of this great battle. Why?

A Decreased Power to Produce.

Science has proven beyond a doubt that even slight quantities of "liquor" as a beverage limit a man's productive power, reduce his skill and render him less valuable as a workman. Sir Edward Clark, of London, says: "For all purposes of sustained, enduring, fruitful work, it is my experience that alcohol does not help, but hinders it." Capital cannot afford to employ a man whose production is less than normal and likely to become more so; hence this increasing agitation.

The Manufacturers' Stand.

The Bishop of London, speaking on this question, says: "88% of the manufacturers of the United States demand total abstinence on the part of their employees.

Railway Magnates.

In the same address Bishop Ingram is credited with saying that 1,000,000 men of this country (America) are compelled by their Companies to be total abstainers. The Chicago Inter-Ocean some time ago said that the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad's whole system would soon be dry. It is well known that the great Canadian Roads have the strictest rules respecting their men and the traffic.

Lumber Kings.

The Booth Lumber Company, one of the largest in Canada, about two years ago approached the Ottawa City Council, asking to

have all licences in the district of their mills cancelled, and offering to remunerate the City Council for any loss they might suffer in revenue.

Mine Owners.

“The H. B. Frick Coke Company, a subsidiary of the U.S. Steel Corporation, has ordered into effect (two years ago) a new code of rules governing its mines and miners, the most remarkable of which is the prohibiting of the Company's men from drinking whether on duty or off.”

Princes of Industry.

Rev. Sam Small makes the following statement : “The Atlantic and Birmingham R.R., a new line from Alabama iron district to the Atlantic, sought a location for their car shops involving a plant of \$3,000,000 and 3,000 skilled workmen, with a weekly payroll of about \$50,000. The City of Fitzgerald made the bid for them. President Wodley of the Railway said : “I will never locate our shops in your City while you have forty saloons.” He gave them sixty days to think about it. Next morning by 10 o'clock a Local Option petition had been over signed. In forty days the saloons were voted out and the shops located there.

Industrial life regards the saloon as its great foe.

The Enemy of Production.

The English Parliamentary Committee estimates that in Great Britain the producing power of that nation is reduced by 63% because of intemperance. In Canada this loss amounts to 8%. The U.S. Department of Labor is authority for the statement that 90% of Railways, 79% of Manufacturers, 88% of Trades and 72% of Agriculturists discriminate against employees addicted to drink.

In the face of such evidence, which accumulates every day, what attitude can a thoughtful man take ?

